

S.N.: 10/079,192
Filed: 2/19/02
Inventor: Gary Handwerker
Attorney Docket: 6081-005
Customer No. 29,335

Remarks

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 14, 20, and 23-27 have been amended. Support for these amendments may be found in these claims as presented before amendment and throughout the specification. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments to the claims.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 17-20, and 22-27 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as Anticipated by WO 98/10216 Should be Withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 17-20, and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by WO 98/10216 to Aanestad. Specifically, the Examiner argues that WO 98/10216 teaches the same order of materials as presented in independent claims 1, 7, 14, and 23 of the present invention. Therefore, the Examiner concludes, on this basis independent claims 1, 7, 14, and 23 are anticipated by WO 98/10216, as are the remaining claims of the present invention which depend from independent claims 1, 7, 14, and 23.

In response, Applicant notes that, in fact, WO 98/10216 does not anticipate any of the claims of the present invention, because WO 98/10216 does not teach or suggest the *explicit* limitation of the claims of the present invention that the top and bottom outer layers of the cure blanket of the invention *be sealingly connected to each other at their boundaries to form a moisture-impervious chamber*.

Specifically, as recited in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure § 2131, “[a] claim is anticipated only if *each and every element* as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” (Quoting *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628 (Fed. Cir. 1987))(emphasis added). Reference to WO 98/10216 shows that neither the single drawing in this

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document (Figure 1) nor the text of this document teach or suggest a sealingly connected moisture-impervious chamber, as is *explicitly* provided in the claims of the present invention. Therefore, because WO 98/10216 does not teach every limitation of the claims, it cannot anticipate these claims.

Thus, because WO 98/10216 does not anticipate the claims of the present invention, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 17-20, and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by WO 98/10216 to Aanestad should be withdrawn.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 17-20, and 22-27 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as Anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,549,956 Should be Withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 17-20, and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,549,956 ("956") to Handwerker. Specifically, the Examiner argues that the '956 patent teaches the same order of materials as presented in independent claims 1, 7, 14, and 23 of the present invention, and that the '956 patent therefore anticipates the claims of the present invention.

In response, Applicant notes that, as for the WO 98/10216 reference discussed above, the '956 patent does not teach or suggest every limitation of the claims of the present invention. Therefore, as for the WO 98/10216 reference, the '956 patent does not anticipate the claims of the present invention.

Because the '956 patent to Handwerker does not anticipate the claims of the present invention, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-15, 17-20, and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the '956 patent should be withdrawn.

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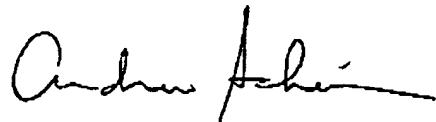
Conclusion

In light of the preceding discussion, Applicant submits that all outstanding requirements for allowance of the claims in the present invention have been met. On this basis, Applicant submits that the claims as currently presented should be allowed.

This response is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination, a Power of Attorney, establishing new counsel of record in the instant application, the appropriate Request for a Three Month Extension of Time and an Amendment Transmittal. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Rosenbaum & Associates, P.C. deposit account No. 18-2000.

Should the Examiner require any further information or wish to discuss an aspect of this Response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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